

A MACHINE clears snow from the road connecting MNJ Road with the tourist resort of Shogran in Mansehra on Thursday. — Photo by Nisar Ahmed Khan

Boy dies as makeshift shelter collapses in S. Waziristan

PESHAWAR: A teenage boy was killed when a makeshift shelter collapsed on him due to downpour and snowfall in Upper South Waziristan on Tuesday night.

The 15-year-old was part of a nomadic family that has been living in a tent-like structure in the mountainous Ows Pass area of Tiarza tehsil for a long period, said residents.

They said the continuous rain coupled with snowfall weakened the structure, causing it to collapse. The residents said the boy breathed his last after remaining buried under the debris. The district administration confirmed the incident and said the boy was laid to rest in the area.

Local elders, community members and notables attended the funeral prayers and expressed solidarity with the family.

Also in the day, parts of Hazara and Malakand Division received rain and snowfall for the third consecutive day.

The high-altitude parts of Hazara Division recorded heavy snowfall, while the plains were lashed by downpour, bringing the mercury down to below zero degrees Celsius.

"This is the third spell of heavy snowfall in the Kaghan Valley. We sprinkled salt and deployed machinery to clear the artery connecting the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad Road with the tourist resort of Shogran," assistant director of the Kaghan Development Authority Asad Shahzad told reporters.

The snowfall, which began in the early hours of the day, hit the high-altitude areas of Kaghan, Siren and Konsh valleys, the tourist resort of Shogran in Mansehra, the Spat and Kandia valleys of Upper Kohistan, and other upper parts of Hazara and continued intermittently throughout the day.

"Our machines have cleared the artery linking the MNJ Road with Shogran and removed slipperiness by sprinkling salt," Mr Shahzad said.

He said that the MNJ Road, which had remained blocked since the first snowfall in November last year, suspending traffic between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, was open to traffic up to Kaghan town. — Dawn Report

Mardan Children Hospital remains non-operational over paucity of funds

Officials insist project's completion will ease patient burden on Peshawar's hospitals

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: A lack of funds has been hampering operationalisation of Children Hospital Mardan, claim officials.

They told *Dawn* that wards were operational in the hospital's OPD space, while work was still under way on the main building supposed to house all specialised services.

The officials said the project awaited government funds.

They said the current cold winter days had highlighted the acute deficiency of beds as three to four children with flu and pneumonia complaints were adjusted to one bed.

The officials said at times, shortage of supplemental oxygen adversely affected patient care.

They said paediatricians had to arrange three-way nasal prongs to save lives.

The officials said when the hospital was in place, there would be around 20 subspecialties of child diseases to the relief of the people from Mardan and nearby Charsadda, Malakand, Dir, Bajaur and Nowshera districts where specialised pediatric services were unavailable.

They said the government had approved a 200-bed children hospital on the premises of Mardan Medical Complex in 2011 and it was supposed to become fully functional by 2014.

The officials said civil work of three floors had been completed with installation of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems.

They noted that the existing 50-bed children and 45-bed nursery units at MMC were overburdened due to the influx of patients.

The officials said the hospital, being built over 40 kanals of land in the second populous district of the province, was desperately needed for around one million minor residents.

They said the deadline for completion of work had kept changing in the past but still, the hospital had to be in place.

The officials said that the hospital required the government's attention as most work had already been completed.

They said the out-patient department of the hospital had become functional, while five lifts and a central cooling and heating system had been installed in the four-storey building, which had a vast basement with a parking capacity for 100 cars.

The officials said the hospital, with five operating theatres, nursery, day-care and thalassaemia centres, needed Rs420 million every year.

They said the facility would play a vital role in reduction of pediatric morbidity and mortality in the province in line with UN's Millennium Development Goal 4, through adoption of improved preventive, primitive and curative strategies in the field of healthcare.

The officials said the project didn't get due priority as it was named after former prime minister and PPP chairperson Benazir Bhutto.

They insisted that naming government projects after political leaders always suffered when the ruling political party's rivals came to power.

The officials said work on the hospital began during the ANP-PPP provincial government when even then, it didn't get due funds.

They said once the hospital became operational, its strength of beds could be increased from 200 to 400.

The officials said the project required 1,125 staff workers to become fully functional for which a letter had been sent to the government.

They said the functional hospital would ease patient burden on Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, Hayatabad Medical Complex and Khyber Teaching Hospital that had overburdened child health departments.

KP launches university ranking system

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa higher education department on Thursday approved the launch of university ranking system, aimed at improving academic quality, transparency and institutional performance across public universities in the province.

The approval was granted by minister for higher education and local government Meena Khan Afridi, said an official statement issued by his office.

The minister said the ranking framework would introduce healthy competition among universities and encourage measurable improvements in governance, research and academic standards.

The statement said that the ranking system had been developed after reviewing leading international frameworks such as QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education (THE), as well as the national ranking criteria of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), adding that the relevant indicators from those systems had been adapted to suit provincial requirements.

Under the new framework, all public sector universities in the province have been directed to submit the required data through a prescribed pro forma within one month, it said, adding that the first provincial ranking list was expected to be published in March.

Mr Afridi said the future financial grants to universities would also be linked to performance under the ranking system, and that institutions demonstrating stronger governance, academic excellence and financial management would be incentivised.

Officials said that the ranking criteria include indicators related to governance, research and development, financial sustainability and fund generation, student support services, and overall academic performance, among others, adding that the aim was to ensure a comprehensive and objective assessment of universities.

The minister noted that no other province had so far introduced a dedicated provincial university ranking system, describing the initiative as a step towards aligning higher education in the province with international benchmarks.

He reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to strengthening higher education through reforms focused on quality assurance, accountability and global competitiveness.

Seven shops gutted in Balakot market fire

MANSEHRA: Seven shops were gutted, reducing goods worth millions of rupees to ashes after a fire erupted in Lalazar Market in Balakot in the early hours of Thursday.

"I visited the shops that were destroyed in the heavy blaze and reported the incident to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government through the additional deputy commissioner (relief and human rescue)," Hasrat Khan, the assistant commissioner of Balakot, told reporters.

According to officials, the fire broke out in one of the seven shops due to an electrical short circuit and rapidly engulfed the entire market.

The affected business centres included two chicken and general stores owned by Mazhar Hussain, a cloth shop owned by Munir Hussain, and four hotels, chapli kabab outlets, and other eateries owned by Mohammad Bashir, which were completely destroyed.

Affected traders said they suffered huge financial losses as goods stored in their shops and business centres were reduced to ashes.

No loss of life was, however, reported, as the bazaar was shut when the fire erupted.

Personnel of Rescue 1122, along with fire tenders, rushed to the site and extinguished the blaze after hours of hectic efforts.

Later, traders gathered at the Lalazar Market and demanded that the government provide financial assistance to those affected.

Speaking to reporters, Javed Iqbal, president of the traders' body, said the incident had caused a major financial setback to traders."While the business community will extend limited financial assistance to the affected traders, the government should come forward to rehabilitate their shops," Mr Iqbal said. — Correspondent

PHC sets aside order to appoint arbitrator over UET monetary dispute

Directs trial court to record arguments of relevant parties

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Accepting a plea of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Peshawar, the Peshawar High Court has set aside a subordinate court's orders to appoint a sole arbitrator without consent of the university for its monetary dispute with a leading construction company.

Disposing of the UET's appeal, Justice Dr Khurshid Iqbal of a single-member bench declared illegal the May 6, 2025, and Nov 14, 2025, orders of an additional district judge (trial court) to first appoint an arbitrator and later turn down the university's application for appointing a second arbitrator of its choice.

The bench directed the trial court to provide a full and fair opportunity to the relevant parties to place on record their respective contentions regarding the appointment of arbitrators, strictly in accordance with the arbitration clause (Clause 67.3) of their contract.

It also ordered compliance of the appointment process with the statutory mandate under Section 20(4) of the Arbitration Act, 1940.

The respondent named in the appeal, Hidayatullah Construction Company, initially instituted a petition under Section 20 of the Arbitration Act before the district judge of Peshawar, seeking a direction to the appellant (UET) to produce the original arbitration agreement and to refer the dispute between the parties to arbitration.

It asserted that despite completion of the assigned work, a dispute had arisen concerning outstanding payments and final price adjustments to the tune of around Rs445 million.

The UET contested the petition contending that the respondent had completed the project on its Jalozai Campus in 42 months instead of the stipulated period of 18 months.

On May 6, 2025, the additional district judge (ADJ)decided the preliminary issue of maintainability of the petition and ruled that prima facie dispute between the parties warranted reference of the matter to arbitration. Consequently, Dr Shahid Mahmood was appointed the sole arbitrator with direction to proceed in accordance with law and submit the award within the statutory period.

Subsequently, the appellant moved an application on June 25 seeking appointment of a second arbitrator, Advocate Afzal Hussain, on the ground that appointment of a sole arbitrator without its consent was contrary to the mandatory provisions of the Arbitration Act.

The trial court, however, rejected the said application on Nov 14, 2025, holding that the earlier order of May 6 had attained finality and that the reference to a sole arbitrator was in consonance with the arbitration clause and the discretion vested in the court under Section 20 of the Act.

Advocate Asadullah Khan Yousafzai appeared for the UET and contended that Section 20(4) of the Arbitration Act clearly provided that the arbitrator had to be appointed by the parties, or where the parties couldn't agree upon an arbitrator, he had to be appointed by the court.

He argued that the trial court couldn't directly appoint an arbitrator without first affording the parties an opportunity to act in accordance with their contractual stipulation.

After detailed discussion on different provisions of the Arbitration Act, the contract between the parties and the Rules of Conciliation and Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the bench ruled that under the ICC rules, the appointment of arbitrator(s) was not left to unilateral discretion, whether of one party or of the court, but followed a structured process ensuring neutrality, equality of participation, and procedural fairness.

"By appointing a sole arbitrator in disregard of the agreed mechanism and without first determining whether the parties could agree upon appointment in accordance with Clause 67.3 and the ICC Rules, the learned Trial Court effectively supplanted the contractual regime with its own discretion, which is not sanctioned by Section 20(4) of the Act," it declared.

THE BANK OF PUNJAB

PUBLIC AUCTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTIES

LOCATED AT SATYANA ROAD, FAISALABAD

WHEREAS BOP was awarded judgment and decree dated **13-06-2023** by the Banking Court, against the judgment debtors, below named, jointly and severally, whereby the judgement debtors entered into settlement arrangement twice and failed to complete the arrangement. However, they have paid Rs. 14.00 million till date and now the decretal liability stands at the sum of Rs.70.541 million with cost of funds, which amount remains outstanding in entirety. Under section 19(3) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001, the aforesaid decree constitutes and confers sufficient power and authority on decree holder to sell the mortgaged property by public auction together with transfer of marketable title without recourse to and further order of the learned banking court. In terms of Rules 3 and 4 of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Rules, 2018 (upheld up to the level of the Honorable Supreme Court), the decree holder got the mortgaged properties independently evaluated by three PBA approved professional Valuators (i.e. (i)- M/s Creative Consultants & Construction (ii)- M/s Luckyhiya Associates (Pvt.) Ltd and (iii) M/s Protectors, for determining the reserve price/forced sale value of the mortgaged properties. The highest value assessed by above 3-valuators against respective properties has been adopted as the reserve price under rule 3 (b) (iii) ibid.

NOW THEREFORE the decree holder invites all interested persons/parties to participate in the public auction of the mortgaged property **(described below)** scheduled as mentioned against the property.

The Bank of Punjab ..... **(DECREE HOLDER)**

Versus

1. M/s N.R. Textile Mills (Pvt) Limited, Faisalabad having its Head office Kashmir Bridge, 2, KM, 208 Chak Road, Faisalabad, City Office, Yarn Centre Ist Floor, Off # 21, 22 Montgomery Bazar,Faisalabad through its Chief Executive Mr.Naseer Ahmad.(Judgment Debtor/Mortgagor)
2. Naseer Ahmad S/o Nisar Ahmad Chief Executive of M/s N.R Textile Mills (Pvt) Limited, Faisalabad, R/o House No. 95, Mohallah Rachna Town, Satiana Road, Faisalabad. .(Judgment Debtor/Mortgagor)
3. Mrs. Robina Kausar W/o Naseer Ahmad), House No. 95, Mohallah Rachna Town, Satiana Road Faisalabad. (Judgment Debtor/Director/Mortgagor)
4. Mrs. Almas Begum W/o Nisar Ahmad), of M/s N.R. Textile Mills (Pvt) Limited, Faisalabad. R/o House No. 95, Mohallah Rachna Town, Satiana Road, Faisalabad. (Judgment Debtor/Director/Mortgagor).
5. Saif Khalid S/o Nisar Ahmad, R/o Chak No. 89 JB, Post Office Same, Tehsil and District Faisalabad. (Judgment Debtor/Mortgagor/Guarantor).
6. Tanveer Ahmed S/o Nisar Ahmad, R/o House No.128, Mohallah Rachna Town, Satiana Road, Faisalabad. (Judgment Debtor/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
7. Rashid Javed S/o Muhammad Arshad, R/o Chak No. 225, Malakhanwala, DakKhana Khas, Faisalabad. (Judgment Debtor/Mortgagor/Guarantor).

(JUDGMENT DEBTORS) .....

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTIES AND RESERVE PRICE

Sr.#	Property Description	Reserve Price / Forced Sale Value (Amount in PKR)	Date & Place of Auction (DD-MM-YYYY)
1.	Residential 16 Marlas, bearing Sq. # 9, Khas # 23/24, 23/25, 23/26, Khew # 1668, Khat # 6079 at Chak # 214 R.B. Faisalabad owned by Rashid Javed	12.240	29-01-2026 Place: Small D Ground Branch Faisalabad Time: 01:00 PM
2.	Residential 1 Kanal, 16 Marlas & 5.5 Sarsahi, bearing Sq. 9, Khas # 23/5, 23/6, 23/7, 23/9, 23/15, 23/22, 23/23, Khew # 1508, Khat # 5394 at Chak # 214 R.B. Faisalabad owned by Rashid Javed	26.450	
3.	Residential 5 Kanals & 2 Sarsahi, bearing Sq. # 3, 10 Khas # 5 min, 1/1/3 min, 1/1/2, Khew # 1643, 1557 min, 1562, Khat # 6725, 6328 min, 6335 at chak # 214 R.B. Rachna Town, Satyana Road, Faisalabad owned by Naseer Ahmed, Tanveer Ahmed & Saif Khalid	91.571	
4.	Residential 15 Marlas, bearing Sq. # 9, Khas # 23/16, 23/17, 23/18, Khew # 1668, Khat # 6079 at chak # 214 R.B. Faisalabad owned by Rashid Javed	10.837	
5.	Industrial 3 Kanals & 17 Marlas at Kashmir Pull 2 K.M. 208 Chak Road, Near Eden Garden, Faisalabad owned by N.R. Textile Mills (Pvt.) Ltd.	130.990	

Reserve Price of property at serial # 1-4 is based on the valuation determined by M/s Luckyhiya Associates while Reserve Price of properties from serial # 5 is based on the valuation determined by M/s Creative Consultants & Protectors (being the highest in value amongst the three independent valuations).

Terms and Conditions:

1. The valuation reports by the three valuators ibid can be inspected at the Special Assets Management Division, Head Office, 6th Floor, BOP Tower, Main Boulevard, Gulberg III, Lahore, at any time during office hours. Copies can be provided on request.
2. To participate in the auction, interested parties shall be required to submit Bank Draft/Pay Order/CDR in the sum of Rs. 500,000/- for each property, in the name of 'The Bank of Punjab' along with copy of CNIC and cell number of the bidder.
3. Bidding will be held as per schedule given above.
4. Subject to clause 12, the highest bidder will be declared the successful bidder.
5. Upon acceptance of the bid by BOP, the successful bidder must deposit minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the bid amount within two (02) business days of the auction. The remaining balance must be paid within fifteen (15) days from the date of the initial deposit. Failure to deposit the remaining amount within prescribed time line will result in deposited amount being applied to reduce the borrower's liability, and BOP will re-initiate the auction proceedings for recovery of the outstanding amount.
6. Upon receipt of the full bid amount, BOP will transfer the property in the name of successful bidder.
7. The successful bidder(s) shall bear all applicable taxes and expenses, costs and charges in relation to the transfer of title. Advance Income Tax under section 236A at the rate of Five percent (5%) for filer & Ten percent (10%) for non-filer shall be applicable.
8. The successful bidder must transfer the property in his/her name or in the name of nominee not later than thirty (30) days from the date of auction.
9. Upon execution and registration of the sale deed of the mortgaged properties in favor of the successful bidder, all rights, title and interest in such mortgaged property shall, by law, vest in the successful bidder/purchaser and the BOP shall be divested of any right, title and interest in the mortgaged property.
10. The property shall be sold on **'as is where is'** basis. BOP shall assume no responsibility for the property's title, charge/encumbrance thereon, measurements and the dues (Gas, Electricity, property tax etc.). Particulars of the property are provided based on the best possible available information.
11. Bank Draft/Pay Order/CDR of unsuccessful bidders will be returned on the same day.
12. BOP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without assigning any reason.
13. Additional terms & conditions, if any, will be announced before commencement of open bidding

Divisional Head-Special Assets Management Division

The Bank of Punjab, Head Office, 6th Floor, BOP Tower,

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